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Belting it out

Musicians from Haliburton County hit the stage at the Folk Society's Open Stage Night on April 12 at the Haliburton Legion. /TIM YANO staff photographer

Pinestone commits to moving forward

EMILY STONEHOUSE
Editor

A fresh start, a new beginning, a page turned on the next chapter for Pinestone Resort and Conference Centre.

That's the hope, anyway. Six months ago, Andy MacMillan , Collin Burke and the ownership joined forces with one goal in mind; to resurrect the Pinestone.

And that spanned beyond physical changes. They wanted to bring it back to life for the community. "We are building, we are growing," said Burke. "And we want to focus on a 100 per cent locally based management and team."

The building and property is owned by the Aurora Group, which has been the case for nearly a decade now. The Vaughn-based group owns a number of properties, primarily in and amongst the GTA. "They are currently trying to refocus," said MacMillan. "They have a lot on the go, and but Pinestone restructure is their top priority and focus right now"

MacMillan was referencing the elephant in the room; the great power outage in October of this past year. "I believe the outage gave us a better understanding of how integral the existence of Pinestone is for our community."

Right around the same time, MacMillan and Burke stepped into their roles at the Pinestone; as director of golf and resort operations, and creative director, respectively.

"When I started, I saw areas I wanted to explore that hadn't been touched," said Burke, who is deeply entwined in Haliburton's local scene as the sixth generation of his family to call the region home. He recalled working at the Pinestone as a teenager, and now in his new role, after decades of experience in the hospitality industry, intends to put it back on the map for all the right reasons.

"My focus will be on events," he said. "Meetings, weddings, celebrations of life. I want to expand from there."

Burke hopes to develop a wedding package that will "essentially sell itself" he chuckled, referencing his vision for reformatting the wedding offerings; including a unique new venue on-site to incorporate into the package.

In order to get these events up and running again, it was noted that there are infrastructure requirements, such as new flooring, new walls, new lighting, and new heating and cooling units. With 102 rooms, the team is currently tackling the first level, and working their way up. Many of the rooms were built in the 1970s, and have received minimal TLC since then. "But we are diligently working to have all our rooms available," confirmed MacMillan.

Like many accommodations, the Pinestone took a hit during the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020. With limited travel, interest in hotels dwindled. But Burke and MacMillan confirmed that between a local management team and an owner who is realigned with their goals, the Pinestone is back on track.

And what seems to be projecting them forward is a piqued interest in golf. "Golf was steadily declining," said MacMillan. "It was getting to the point where it wasn't our main revenue stream. People weren't choosing Pinestone."

But thanks to the staff and caretakers of the property, namely their property

see PINESTONE page 2

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HE fire department looks recover costs

JAMES MATTHEWS
Staff Reporter

Highlands East will have outside help to recover costs incurred for fire protection services.

Chris Baughman, the township's fire chief, spoke about a Canadian company called Fire Marque during council's April 8 meeting. The local fire department doesn't recover costs for fire protection services for such calls as structure fires.

Baughman said it is accepted that the municipal tax levy covers the costs associated with fire protection and this is true for all the fixed costs associated with the fire department including fire halls, trucks, and equipment.

"The additional expenses the fire department incurs while fighting each specific fire are eligible for recovery through the property owner's insurance policy," he said.

Highlands East does not have staff to administer a recovery program, which is why an agreement with Fire Marque would be favourable.

Fire Marque specializes in the recovery of funds from insurance companies based on the costs incurred by the fire department while dealing with an emergency within the municipality.

"Property insurance policies provide coverage to pay these costs," Baughman said. "There is no additional cost to the property owners as this coverage is within their policies.

"The municipality does not currently bill for these services. Therefore, the insurance company is retaining all funds from the property owner since the insurance company is not paying out on the policy coverage."

If an agreement with Fire Marque is implemented, costs would be recovered from the property owner's insurance to cover the additional expenses of the fire department responding to this call for service, and the property owner would not be adversely affected for the fire response.

Baughman said the money that would be recovered are "additional coverages" in the policy and do not reduce or come out of the property owner's payout.

With Fire Marque, the municipality will be able to maximize its cost recovery while minimizing the staff time associated with chasing insurance companies.

The company provides insurance experts who communicate with the property owner's insurance company and, in return, Fire Marque gets 30 per cent of the recovered money.

"There is no additional cost to the fire department even if the property owner's insurance policy does not have coverage," Baughman said. "There is no cost to the property owner because they have already paid for the insurance coverage in their policy."

Councillor Cam McKenzie asked if recovering costs from a homeowner's insurance company would cause that homeowner's rate to increase, similar to what happens to motor vehicle insurance premiums.

"The size of the claim also is kind of reflective of the size of our response," Baughman said. "Generally, a small fire where we would respond to a minimal timeframe would not even create an invoice. It would have to be a claim big enough where we would be on scene for multiple hours in multiple trucks."

If the department responds to a call to fight a fire and equipment is damaged during that call, Deputy Mayor Cecil Ryall wanted to know if the homeowner's insurance would cover repairing those damages?

"It's not just damage," Baughman said. "It is additional expenses. There is additional wages on scene as well, so that's going to offset our wages for those additional hours. Those are recoverable as well."

He said costs incurred by the fire department responding to a motor vehicle accident won't be recoverable in this manner.

"We are already involved with another program through the (Ministry of Transportation) for collecting those funds," he said.

Ryall wondered what the township would do to recover costs from a homeowner who doesn't carry fire insurance.

"Unfortunately, I don't think we can in that case without causing undue hardship to the community member," Baughman said. "And that's not something I want to pursue."

It's time for our Ice Out Contest

When do you think the ice will completely melt off of Head Lake in Haliburton? Send in the date and time of your guess with your name and contact information to emily@haliburtonpress.com. The closest guess will win a free year subscription to the *Echo*.

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While the Pinestone recognizes that there is work to do, the owners and new managers of the facility are dedicated to keeping the space open for the future. Pictured, workers lay new flooring in the Gallery restaurant on-site. /submitted

Pinestone makes effort to give back

from page 1

manager, Kevin Fowler, the site became a destination once again. "There were 20,000 rounds last year, with 120 members," said MacMillan, proudly.

Steady and small growth. It'll take time, but the Haliburton locals are ready to put the work in.

A rebrand, a refresh, a restart. And all of it with locals at the helm. With 26 staff currently, Burke and MacMillan plan to grow the team dramatically over the next few months leading up to summer.

As locals themselves, the team is also committed to trying to give back where they can. In the process of renovations, they purchased new blankets and duvets, and donated their old ones to Snowflake Meadows Rescue Centre, for rehoming and rehabilitating animals in need. "We are in different circles in the community," laughed Burke, referencing the partnership and ease he and MacMillan share as managers. "We're able to hear where people need help, and see what we can do."

With the Great Ice Storm of 2025 now in the rearview mirror, Pinestone made sure their space was available to provide a safe and cozy place to stay for the many Hydro workers who swarm to the Haliburton Highlands from across the country. Last week, Burke kicked off a special 'thank you' to the crews with a roast beef dinner, and invited councillors from all levels of municipal government to join in the celebration.

"Pinestone offers so much to the community," said Burke. "And there's a whole generation here who hasn't seen it." Burke noted that's his number one priority: to bring locals back through the doors of the Pinestone, and to appreciate everything it has to offer.

"It's a challenge to me," he said. "There are so many untapped possibilities here."

Burke and MacMillan encouraged anyone who is interested in checking out the space to stop by. "Give us a call, we will give you a tour," said MacMillan. While renovations are ongoing, the Pinestone is still booking accommodations, and offering food and events at their restaurant, Stone 21.

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Interest rises in HE rental properties, says official

JAMES MATTHEWS

Staff Reporter

Interest in operating short-term rental properties in Highlands East for the summer tourism season has increased.

Kim Roberts, the township's junior planner, gave council during its April 8 meeting a snapshot of the recently-launched short-term rental (STR) licensing program.

Of 41 short-term rental applications received by the township, 22 have been approved. Ten have been rejected and there are nine applications being considered.

Roberts said the rejections are largely due to building code infractions and septic capacity issues.

"We've definitely seen an uptick in enquiries around short-term rentals," she said.

The municipality is gearing up to send first warning letters to existing STR operators who are identifiable by the township that are non-compliant with licensing.

Roberts said the township will soon have an idea of its share of the municipal accommodation tax (MAT) collected during the year's first quarter as part of the new STR regulations.

As part of the new bylaw to regulate STRs, Haliburton County attached a four per cent MAT to STR property owners. Money from the tax is to go toward implementing and enforcing the STR bylaw and to tourism promotion.

Half of the tax collected by the four lower tier municipalities will be kicked up to the county to be used in promoting and initiatives to build the local tourism industry.

"We've had the first payment come in already, actually," she said.

Reminders will be sent to remind license holders about the MAT and that it will need to be paid and recorded by the end of the month, she said.

Roberts said the township might be interested in knowing an Ontario municipality, Tiny Township, recently won a legal action brought to superior court by a group of STR property owners.

The applicants petitioned the court in October 2024 behind an argument that licensing bylaws should be quashed for illegality as per a section in the Municipal Act. The judge ultimately ruled that the licensing bylaws are not illegal and should not be quashed.

"This was kind of a much-anticipated decision," Roberts said and added that Tiny Township's STR regulations are more strict than Highlands East's in some degree.

Enforcement of Highlands East's STR bylaw will begin in earnest in June, she said.

Deputy Mayor Cecil Ryall asked about the collection of the MAT and the licensing fees from local operators.

"Depending on how it's received, it all comes into our coffers," Roberts said. "We do have accounts to receive the MAT payments as well as the licensing fees."

Ryall said he's aware of the MAT's 50-50 split with Haliburton County, but he isn't certain about the mechanism or process to do that.

"Or is it just in a holding account of some kind until, I believe, we need a corporation or something to basically determine how that will be dealt with," he said. "Do you know if we've progressed to that point yet?"

The county is working through the legalities of establishing the municipal corporation that will handle the 50 per cent of the MAT for tourism-related uses, she said.

"My understanding is that we're receiving the monies and holding them," Roberts said. "As more MAT fund comes in, we'll be setting up a sort of reserve fund for 50 per cent of those monies to go into so that when we're ready to start transferring to the county everything is sort of sitting in that account ready to be transferred once that process is ready to go."

"For those who are operating their short-term rentals right now without a license, what would we say to them?" Councillor Angela Lewis said.

"We're really, really encouraging folks to get their applications in," Roberts said. "We are starting to more vigorously review where we're seeing listings, where we're seeing revenue coming into short-term rentals."

A host compliance program has been "scraping websites" to gather that information for the township.

"So we're starting to see where folks are still kind of actively renting and we haven't received something from them," Robert said. "Those folks are going to be the first ones to receive their warning letters."

To local STR property operators: It's always better to voluntarily comply with the regulations and to provide the required information, she said.

"It's much more affordable to start work through the process with us now," she said. "We're doing our best to help people sort out situations where maybe they have concerns about shore road allowances or septics, stuff like that."

It's more costly for operators if the municipality has to take legal action against them, she said. Problems with such things as septic systems are best to be worked out before it gets too far gone.

"A lot of people get their water from the lake," she said. "A lot of people have small kids and things like that playing in the water. Nobody wants pollution of that type entering our waterways."

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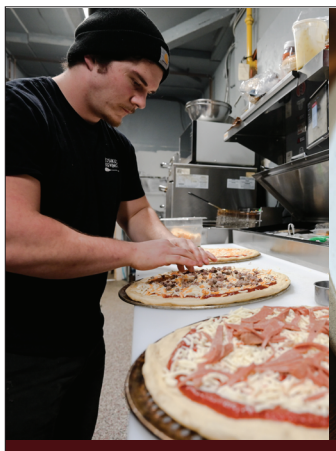

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Pictured, teacher Meghan Mardus conducts the class as they warm up their instruments. /EMILY STONEHOUSE staff

While some students have experience with music, none of the students had played the instruments they were assigned in the class, making it a whole new experience for all of them.

Hal High reconnects with music

EMILY STONEHOUSE
Editor

The first band class in over a decade, local Hal High students were eager to discuss what they've learned so far, and why it's important to have music in their lives. /EMILY STONEHOUSE staff

"Take a deep breath in," says Meghan Mardus, the music teacher at Haliburton Highlands Secondary School. "Feet flat on the floor. Check your body. Okay, let's go."

This was how the students started their day on a particularly dull and dreary Thursday. After morning announcements and cartons of chocolate milk hurriedly chugged by the door, they gathered themselves with their instruments.

Flutes, trumpets, a trombone, clarinets, a few small tubas, and drums. "We all started playing together in February of this year," explained Mardus, "and no one in this class has prior experience with the instrument they are on."

What may be a core memory for some graduates of Hal High, others would know that the local music classes have been extinct for over a decade, since the retirement of the beloved and passionate music teacher, Tom Regina. While guitar classes have been offered in an effort to keep the music bug alive, band music fell off the table from a lack of interest; both amongst staff and students.

"These instruments have just been sitting here, languishing," said Mardus. "And it's been such a joy to hear them again."

Mardus credited Long and McQuade, a well-known music store, for coming in and tuning up all the instruments for a very affordable price. This was the kick they needed to get the ball rolling on local music classes once again.

Mardus has been a teacher for over 16 years. She's traveled across the county, teaching students of all ages, before picking up a French teacher position at the high school two years ago. While teaching flows through her veins, her real passion is for drama and the arts. "I played French horn growing up," she reflected. "And I truly believe that music is such a formative, incredible experience, and I want that for the students."

She shared that re-developing the music program at Hal High has become her ultimate mission. "This is what I will be doing for the next 19 years of my career," she chuckled. "It's just so much fun. This is my happy place now."

And the students can't help but agree. The class is for all ages; from Grades 9 to 12, and despite the anticipated grogginess that generally accompanies teenagers and first-class-of-the-day energy, the underlying excitement to the room was palpable. At one point, a young flautist expressly chimed "alright, it's Beethoven time!"

The group is learning *Ode to Joy*, from Beethoven's *Symphony No. 9.* But that's not how they started. Mardus is adamant that if you hear the music, you can play the music. That's half the battle. So she started them out with a series of pop ballads to pique their interest. "We played songs from Blink-182, Taylor Swift, Red Hot Chili Peppers," says Willow Brown, a Grade 9 student who has just started playing the flute. "We've got a really good foundation of practice," echoed Veronica Beynon, a fellow flautist.

Drey Cook, another Grade 9 student who has just started with the flute, shared that he intends to carry on with playing the instrument, whenever he can. "It's mostly muscle memory, now," he said.

Other students in the class, such as Grade 10 Daniel Wheeler, have dabbled in music before. But Wheeler had never tackled his newest interest; the trombone. He cited the Disney movie *Soul* as the reason he wanted to start with the unique instrument, and is eager to learn more. "This class has really opened up more pathways to different musical futures," he said.

Bryant Medlar is in Grade 11, and just started playing the trumpet. He sat alongside Jacob Sutton, a Grade 9 student, who plays the clarinet. Both are brand new to the instruments, and while they have an interest in music, never saw themselves playing. "I originally wanted to play the drums or the piano," said Jacob, "but now I am on the clarinet." Bryant shared that he enjoys hearing all the instruments come together. "It's really interesting," he said. "I think it sounds pretty good."

Mardus ensures that it's not just basic music lessons the students are learning: though they can now all read sheet music with ease. "We're also learning music theory, music history, and it just gives the students such a great foundation for learning more down the road."

Beyond the class being energetic and bubbly, Mardus noted that many of her students leave the class "lighter", as it's a chance to express themselves creatively; something that is easier said than done in the structured life of a high school student.

> ***"I truly believe that music is such a formative, incredible experience, and I want that for the students."***
>
> — Meghan Mardus, music teacher

The students are preparing their pieces for their upcoming talent show at the school. "I know we can do it," said student Vanessa Beynon. "If we have enough practice, I think we can easily perform in a few weeks."

"When everyone comes together and plays," says Grade 10 Wheeler, "it's totally euphoric to hear it. There's a great payoff to the practice."

What if no one is talking about the issues you care about?

JESSICA SLADE

Special to the Echo

Last week, I wrote about why this election matters – even in a riding where the outcome can feel predictable. But for many people, the bigger question isn't whether or not their vote counts – it's whether the issues they care about are being taken seriously, and/or whether any party is offering real solutions.

You've been calling around for a family doctor or a licensed child care space with no luck. You want to move out, but you're scrambling to find a place to live that doesn't eat up your whole paycheque. And good jobs – ones that are steady, local, and pay enough to build a comfortable life - can be hard to come by.

Then you hear politicians speak, and it feels like they're talking about a different reality. You wonder: Do they even know what life actually looks like here?

If that sounds familiar, you're not alone. A lot of people in rural communities like ours feel left out of the political conversation, like the real challenges we face here never make it into campaign speeches or national debates. And when that happens, it's easy to feel frustrated … or just to tune out entirely.

But what if this is actually the moment to tune in?

Elections aren't just about picking a winner, and they don't just belong to political parties. They belong to all of us - and they're an opportunity to speak up, to help shape the priorities of the people running before they get the job. Because politicians from every party are paying attention right now, they're listening for what people care about, what issues are showing up in local conversations, and what priorities they can't afford to miss.

So what can you do if it feels like no one's talking about the things that matter most to you?

Start the conversation.

You don't need to be an expert. You don't need to have all the answers. Your lived experience – what you see, feel, and worry about – is more than enough to get started. And this election, there are real opportunities to speak up and be heard.

One opportunity to hear directly from the people running to represent you is the All Candidates Meeting hosted by the Lindsay and District Chamber of Commerce and the Lindsay Downtown BIA on Tuesday, April 15 from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. at the Pie Eyed Monk (C.L. Baker Room, second Floor) in Lindsay.

Events like these are a chance to ask questions and bring attention to the issues that matter most in daily life – like housing, healthcare, and the local economy.

But showing up in person isn't the only way to engage. There are other ways to get involved:

Send a message to the candidates

Their contact info is public. A short email sharing your concerns can go a long way.

Talk about your concerns with people you trust

A chat at the kitchen table or in the grocery store lineup can be the start of something bigger. When we raise our concerns with each other, they're more likely to rise to the surface in our communities too.

It doesn't have to be loud. It doesn't have to be perfect. It just has to be honest.

Because if you're thinking it, chances are someone else is too.

Politics should reflect real life. And if you're not seeing your reality in the campaign, that's not a reason to stay quiet. It's a reason you should speak up.

Let's use this opportunity to raise our voices – so that no matter who wins, the people who represent us know what matters to us, here at home.

Retro pay impacts this year's Sunshine listings, says school board

JAMES MATTHEWS

Staff Reporter

Local teachers who find themselves included on the Sunshine List are there largely because of a pair of provincial arbitration cases.

The Public Sector Salary Disclosure Act was passed in 1996 with the purpose to disclose salaries and benefits that total $100,000 or more a year paid to public sector employees.

Those annual lists are what's referred to as Sunshine Lists and discloses the names, positions, salaries, and total taxable benefits of employees.

That kind of salary meant more 30 years ago when the list started than it does against today's economy. But the list's threshold hasn't risen.

Since 1996, some $243 billion dollars of public sector spending in Ontario have been accounted for via the sunshine lists and they're said to remain an important piece of transparency in Ontario government spending to the present day.

Salaries paid to Trillium Lakelands District School Board (TLDSB) employees who earned $100,000 or more in the previous calendar year is publicly available by way of the list published April 1.

Haliburton County school are under the umbrella of the TLDSB. In a release, the board said this year it should be noted that the majority of the new names of TLDSB employees on the list appear because of two provincial arbitrations. They involved retroactive payments made to education sector employees in 2024.

The first retroactive payment was due to the repeal of Bill 124, which had limited pay increases for public sector employees.

That was provincial legislation that limited pay increases for public sector employees. It was overturned in a legal case which included a decision that public sector employees were entitled to retroactive payments dating back to when the bill was passed.

The second retroactive payment was due to a decision on wage increases established as part of the collective bargaining at the provincial level, which were applied to teacher and education worker salaries.

"Each year, the number of public sector employees on the salary disclosure list grows as individuals move beyond the $100,000 threshold – a value established in 1996," the board stated in the release. "For 2024, TLDSB has 338 new names on the list, making a unique year in reporting salaries."

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Editorial

Youth

emily stonehouse

WE SPEND a lot of time talking about how we live in a community of seniors. That's the fact of the matter; the majority of the population is over the age of 65. It's a retirement community, and much of the programming, opportunities, and experiences are geared towards that.

As our primary demographic, there is no shortage of needs for our seniors.

But this week, I was reminded that there is another age bracket that needs our attention: the youth of our community - specifically, high school kids.

I find myself at our local high school fairly often. Whether it's speaking to a leadership class, covering one of their plays, or sitting in on music lessons, there is enough going on there to keep our papers filled. Kudos to the teachers for not only providing the students of Hal High with a wealth of opportunities, but for also having the foresight to include the local media.

That's not something they need to do. Sitting in on their classes, it's more than apparent that their plates are overflowing. But they continue to connect with us, because they want the voices of the students to be heard, to be seen, to be appreciated within our community.

As I wander the halls of Hal High, it always brings back a sense of nostalgia. I attended that school, as did my husband. It's where our kids will one day become Red Hawks, and my dad taught for many years. It's a part of me. It always will be.

But last week, as I sat in on the local music class, I thought about the full circle experience of being back there. When I graduated from Hal High, I went on to study, to travel, to experience life in different places. And I am so glad I did.

But why did I leave? And really, it's because I think that Haliburton never quite felt like a place I could call home.

Growing up in a seniors community, there is a lot of attention towards that larger demographic. And again, I recognize the needs, but perhaps we are unknowingly pushing another group away without even noticing.

We place the expectation on them that they will leave, and it's great if they do, but what if we work on building a community that will welcome them back with open arms. Often they are seen as transient beings; only floating through before their next stop.

But in reality, these kids are the heart and soul of our community. As I spoke to their classes, each and every one of them were born and raised around this little town. They grew up alongside Head Lake, played in the forested boundaries of their schools. They know snowmobile season and hunting season and were familiar with the *Haliburton Echo;* a newspaper that had been around since long before they were born, and they were all too eager to be featured within its pages. They had so much to say, and were grateful for a chance to say it.

I am so thrilled that the high school teachers have connected with us to showcase the personalities of this school. Because at some point in the twists and turns of their lives ahead, every single student in those walls will be asked where they are from, and we want them to so proudly declare "I'm from Haliburton."

So what can we do to make them feel part of this town? Maybe it's up to us to change the narrative of our community, and showcase the talents and traits from people of all ages while we work to create spaces where everyone feels welcome.

Because high school kids are the truest representation of who we are, and what we can be.

And if you're once a Hawk, you're always a Hawk.

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A solo seat found in the woods, while whispers of spring crawl around it. /EMILY STONEHOUSE

Our road

sharon lynch

Down

Oh hello

THE WIND was a killer. Monika and Jim were walking beside the lake, following the path as quickly as they could while their coats whipped around them. Murray, their neighbour, was a summer resident but in town on business, and had agreed to join them for a brisk walk around the lake. They had planned to reward themselves after their little excursion with an early dinner at a local eatery. And they were almost there, thank goodness.

Monika's face and hands felt numb. Jim said nothing - just kept his head down against the wind. Murray was flabbergasted by the temperature. He kept muttering something about April weather but it was hard to hear him over the wind.

As they approached the restaurant, they could see it was filling up fast despite the early hour. Jim figured people had been fooled by the sunshine and wanted to warm up inside. A burly-looking man was walking away from the restaurant, heading toward the three friends. Monika glanced at his face but didn't recognize him. As he passed, he nodded and Monika replied with a greeting.

Then Murray spoke up, this time making his voice heard over the wind. "That would never happen in the city," he remarked. Monika and Jim looked at him, eyebrows raised. "Saying hello to a perfect stranger as you pass," he explained. "Folks don't greet people they don't know. It's amazing and so small town."

Monika and Jim weren't sure if his words were positive or critical. So they decided to take them as well-meaning. Acknowledging another person as they pass on the street seemed second-nature. It didn't occur as much in the high tourist season since there were just too many people around and most of them travelled in clusters of friends or family. But even then on occasion Monika has said a quick 'hi' or nodded her head if there was eye contact. And Jim was used to being a polite Canadian, holding open a door for a shopper behind him, maybe even smiling as the person walked through. Those occasions usually garnered a little warm feeling in him. He saw it as a win-win situation.

Monika told Murray that she believed most people were friendly if given a chance to be so. A scowl or distracted expression usually reads like a big 'Do not disturb' sign to her. But otherwise she's happy to greet people with a quick hello whether she knows them or not. In fact, there have been days, she admitted, when receiving an acknowledgement before she had a chance to speak, gave her a lift. It left her feeling included in the community.

Jim was listening to this exchange between the two. When there was a pause, he pointed out how it could be different if he was walking his dog Joey. Monika, remembering an incident that had ended with Jim getting bit, quickly agreed. When two dog walkers meet on the street, sometimes the best approach is no approach. Though on the other hand, she noted, dog walking was also a way to connect with new neighbours or, if there was canine compatibility, catch up on the latest gossip.

Now the three friends were entering the restaurant, their numb noses grateful for a respite. The warm air was a welcome change and the place was a hive of activity. As they waited to be seated, Murray watched as both Monika and Jim nodded or waived to several diners. Monika said it was hard to be anonymous when you lived in a small town.

Once escorted to their table, they looked at the menu even though they knew what they wanted – just in case they changed their mind at the last minute. As Monika perused the pasta dishes, a woman approached.

Monika looked up. "Oh hello," she said.

After a short low-key conversation the woman returned to her own table. Jim wondered who the woman was. Monika said she couldn't remember her name but knew she had met her before at some gathering. "Sometimes I just have to fake it," she told him. "I didn't really know who she was talking about but wanted to be friendly. I'll probably recall her name at three o'clock this morning."

points of view

Hello operator

steve galea

Loon Tales

LIKE MOST couples, Jenn and I sometimes experience a brief period when the flame in our relationship flickers a little less fervently. Jenn refers to this as trout season. But I'm not sure if that's the correct clinical name.

Regardless, this spring I am determined not to let this happen – at least, for as long as the ice stays on the lake.

My problem is I am awful at reading relationship cues – something I only learned after buying her a gift card from our local bait shop for Valentine's Day.

Luckily, the Internet is filled with relationship experts. And, after a bit of browsing, it became clear that almost every one of them agrees on one thing: communication is key. After that, the only other message they concur on is "Support my channel with likes and follows."

Apparently, communication should be open, honest and should let your partner in on something very personal, to show your trust and vulnerability. The message couldn't have been clearer: they want you to share your secret fishing spot.

Fellow anglers, I know this is a big ask, but if you're serious about your relationship, it must be done. The good news is that no one said how.

That's why I walked up to her and attempted to whisper it in her ear.

"What are you doing?" she asked.

"I think it's about time we play broken telephone," I replied.

Surprisingly, despite holding multiple degrees, no university ever taught Jenn this basic life skill.

So, I explained that broken telephone was a party game we used to play in which you whispered something in someone's ear, and then they whispered it into the next person's ear, and that person whispered it the next person's ear, until it reached the end of the line. That's when the person who initially started the broken telephone chain asks what the last person heard, and then reveals what was initially said before poor listening skills and garbled whispering distorted the message.

"But it's just you and me?" she said. "Why do we have to whisper?

I told her about the vulnerability and trust part, and how you are never more vulnerable and trusting than when you let someone get within slobbering range of your ear.

After doing a Google search of broken telephone, she said "It seems the whole point of this game is watching how a secret gets distorted and unrecognizable."

"Yes," I conceded.

She then noted that this would require more players. She had a point.

"I tell you what," I replied. "After I whisper the secret to you. You whisper it back in my ear and then I'll whisper it in yours again. It'll be just like we're playing with four people…"

And then I lunged for her ear.

"I don't want to play this game," she said, while swatting at me with a magazine.

"Why not?" I asked.

"It's stupid," she said.

I walked away not sure how to feel. On one hand I was happy because I didn't have to reveal my favourite secret fishing hole. But I was also sad because we had not re-established meaningful communication.

I think Jenn saw this too. Which is why she asked, "Is there any other important thing you want to say to me?"

I'm not sure how this helps our relationship, but she is now supporting my channel with likes and follows …

pic *of the* past

Back row, from left to right, Bill (WR) Curry, Mrs.Crarey, Mrs. Tom Barrow and Mrs. Fred Edmonds.Middle row, from left to right, William Hudgins, Elda McKnight, Gladys Johnson, Mrs. HB Feir and Mrs. Geo Feir. Front row, from left to right, Mrs. Hudgins. Mrs. WR Curry, Mrs. Burt, Rev. Burt., HB. Feir, standing in front of the Haliuburton United Church./FILE photo

letters to the editor

Hands off the CBC

To The Editor,

It was a hard decision for me to write this letter as Jamie Schmale has been a well respected and hard working representative for this riding. We have been fortunate to have him representing us. However, I found it ironic that this week's paper headlined the report on his campaign as "prioritizing Canadian content" at the same time I saw a rally, given by Pierre Poilievre, where Pierre gleefully announced his goal to get rid of the English language CBC and turn their headquarters building into housing. Growing up in Haliburton County in the 1950's and 60's the CBC was our only television channel as I'm sure it was in many remote areas of Canada. The CBC has been and continues to be important to promote Canadian content and report on Canadian issues. CBC programs such as *Schitt's Creek, Murdoch Mysteries,* and *Heartland* are shown in countries all over the world. With the rise of American hostility towards our country this is not the time to do away with one of our best vehicles to promote Canada and Canadian content and issues.

Barb Schofield,
Wilberforce

Cancel bridge project

To The Editor,

I'm writing today in response to the Public Works Department plan to replace the current bridge with newer bridge at Head Lake Park. The only reason why this is in the plan is because it will make it easier for winter maintenance vehicles to cross the bridge to get to the other side, wow! Why not enter from the other side?

The cost to do such a job is earmarked for $500,000 just to make it easier for the Roads Department to cross the bridge in the winter. $500,000 plus the removal of flower boxes tallied at $1,600.00, incredible!

Wouldn't that 500,000 plus dollars be better spent, regularly cleaning up the park from goose feces, animal feces, pick up trash, replace burnt out light bulbs, fix the "leaning tower of fountain" and installing a splash pad? In addition to hiring a security company to police the criminal activity within the park, or upgrading the camera system? But you'll need lights that work for that.

Council was worried about the Farmer's Market vehicles damaging the grass and the Director of Public Works wants to bring in a crane that would damage the sprinkler system. $$$???

Councillor Pat Casey wants to cut trees "because they'll grow back", again just to replace a bridge that doesn't need replacing at a cost of $500,000 of hard-earned tax payers dollars.

Rob Camelon the Director of Public Works needs to spend that money on, crumbling infrastructure, end of life roads, potholes, culverts and ensuring that accessibility for seniors, pedestrian traffic, vehicular traffic and ankle twisting walkways around our town are fixed. Maybe put the $500,000 towards a pool in our town, add a pickle ball court and clean up the beach on a regular basis.

I urge Council not only to defer this "make work bridge building project" but cancel it! Please put the money in the right places for residents. Start a town beautification project because if it wasn't for some very dedicated kindhearted volunteer individuals who do the work now, some things in town wouldn't get done.

Rob McCaig,
Haliburton

Songs of the season

The Haliburton County Folk Society held their regular Open Stage Night at the Haliburton Legion on Saturday, April 12. The event is an opportunity for local musicians to perform in front of a supportive and encouraging crowd. The Open Stage events are held fairly regularly, and everyone is welcome. For more information, visit www.haliburtonfolk.com, /TIM YANO staff photographer

Liberal meet and greet

Dr. Nell Thomas will be at the Minden Curling Club on Wednesday, April 16 to discuss the decision she made to run in this election. With her will be the doctor who came into the picture at the right time to help her make the decision.

This will be an opportunity to ask questions, clarify concerns, and hear the vision Nell Thomas has for this riding and this country.

The event starts at 6:30 p.m. at the Minden Curling Club, 50 Prentice Street in Minden. Refreshments will be provided.

Submitted

Light Recycling

Dysart ratepayers can drop off light bulbs and tubes for recycling at Haliburton, Harcourt, and West Guilford Landfills during regular operating hours.

☑Accepted: light bulbs and tubes, including incandescent, compact fluorescent, fluorescent tubes, halogen, HID, LED, UV.

☒Not accepted: lighting fixtures, ballasts, string lights.

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☒Light bulbs and tubes DON'T go in the garbage.

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Game on!

After it was originally scheduled for the weekend the ice storm hit, the Haliburton Highlands Outdoors Association was able to pivot and host the annual Wild Game Dinner and Silent Auction at the Haliburton Legion on April 11. The sold-out event provided diners with the opportunity to try a variety of meats, including deer, moose, buffalo, and bear, to name a few. /THOMAS SMITH staff

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THE ECHO HALIBURTON COUNTY | CountyLife | The Times MINDEN ONTARIO

Diners enjoy pancakes at the Youth Unlimited fundraiser. /Submitted by Leanne Young

Pancake dinner a success

Haliburton Highlands Youth Unlimited had their first annual Spring Pancake Dinner Fundraiser on Saturday April 5th.

They had a great group of youth serving over 100 community members who came out to help support the new Bridge Youth Centre's after-school programs. Over $2300 was raised to go towards investing in the youth of our community.

The youth centre has only been open for a few months and is already seeing the positive impact it's making on the youth of our community!

A big thank you to Haliburton Auto, *The Echo*, Glecoffs Family Store, *The Highlander* and Canoe FM for partnering with us in making this fundraiser a huge success.

Submitted by Leanne Young

FoRT scrambles to get rambles underway

Rod Frketich was eager to his debut guiding community rail trail outings but due to the ice storm disaster, the first two Sunday Rambles were cancelled. Friends of the Rail Trail (FoRT) will get rambling as soon as the County of Haliburton can inspect and reopen their 34 km scenic rail trail. FoRT posts updates on a public Facebook page: Friends of the Rail Trail Haliburton. The number to call or text to double-check before you head out to a Sunday Ramble is 365-323-3839. Start time is 11 a.m. from these meet-up points along the Haliburton County Rail Trail (HCRT).

April 20 – parking lot of Lochlin Community Centre,

April 27 – drive down Ritchie Falls Rd to the 'falls' parking area,

May 4 – Cemetery Rd, May 11–Milburn Rd, May 18 – Geeza Rd,

May 25 – drive to the end of Howland Jct Rd,

June 1 – Finale. Meet in the Trailhead parking lot at 7286 Gelert Rd (County Rd 1).

Submitted

/FILE

FEDERAL ELECTION / MONDAY, APRIL 28

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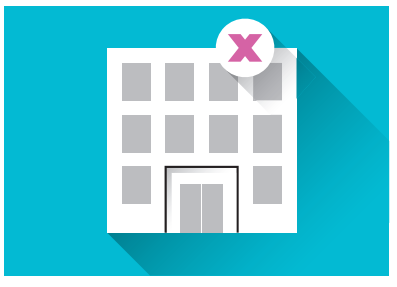

At any Elections Canada office until Tuesday, April 22, 6 p.m.

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Hal High Monthly

Hal High Monthly is written by the Haliburton Highlands Secondary School leadership class featuring monthy school news.

Submitted byAdela Hubbard (Grade 12), Delilah Kaytar (Grade 11), Austin MacKay (Grade 11), Elizabeth Mathew (Grade 11), Adrian Nienajadlo (Grade 11)

The month of March has been a blast for the students and teachers at Hal High. With many snow days and the week-long March break, this month was full of fun.

This month Hal High students showed off its athleticism! Two students wrestled their way to OFSAA championships and eighteen incredible athletes raced their way to OFSAA for Nordic skiing. In the team sports category, both senior and junior girls' volleyball lost in the semi-finals at COSSA, as did senior and junior boys basketball. The Hal High Redhawks have also started the springtime sports; the badminton and track practices have begun!

Sports aside, Hal High students engaged in numerous clubs including the Interact Club, Chess Club, and Drama Club. The Interact Club has focused on fundraising this year for several causes, including the Mahatma Gandhi Siksha Sadan G.S.F.P. School in India. They are currently planning an upcoming event to help students learn about the school and the culture of the students who live there. Meanwhile, the Drama Club has been rehearsing regularly for their upcoming play, Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, which will be performed May 23 and 24 at the Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavilion. Tickets will be available by donation at the door for anyone interested in attending.

This month, the leadership class had many activities on the go as well. These included a green and gold spirit day for St. Patrick's Day as well as Decades Week, where each day students dress up based on a certain decade to show school spirit. Days were divided between the 1970s to the 2000s, with students celebrating each of the respective decades. They ended the month with a cozy day following the ice storm to help keep out the cold.

Hal High also participated this month in the Great Grain Challenge. This was a competition between TLDSB Secondary schools to see who could collect the most grain-based non-perishable items between March 17 and March 30. Although they did not win the challenge, the students at Hal High collected enough donations to represent 75 per cent of the school's population, landing them in third place out of seven secondary schools. Mrs. Borgdorff's Grade 9 French class donated the most items, earning them a class pizza party. All items were donated to the Minden and Haliburton food banks.

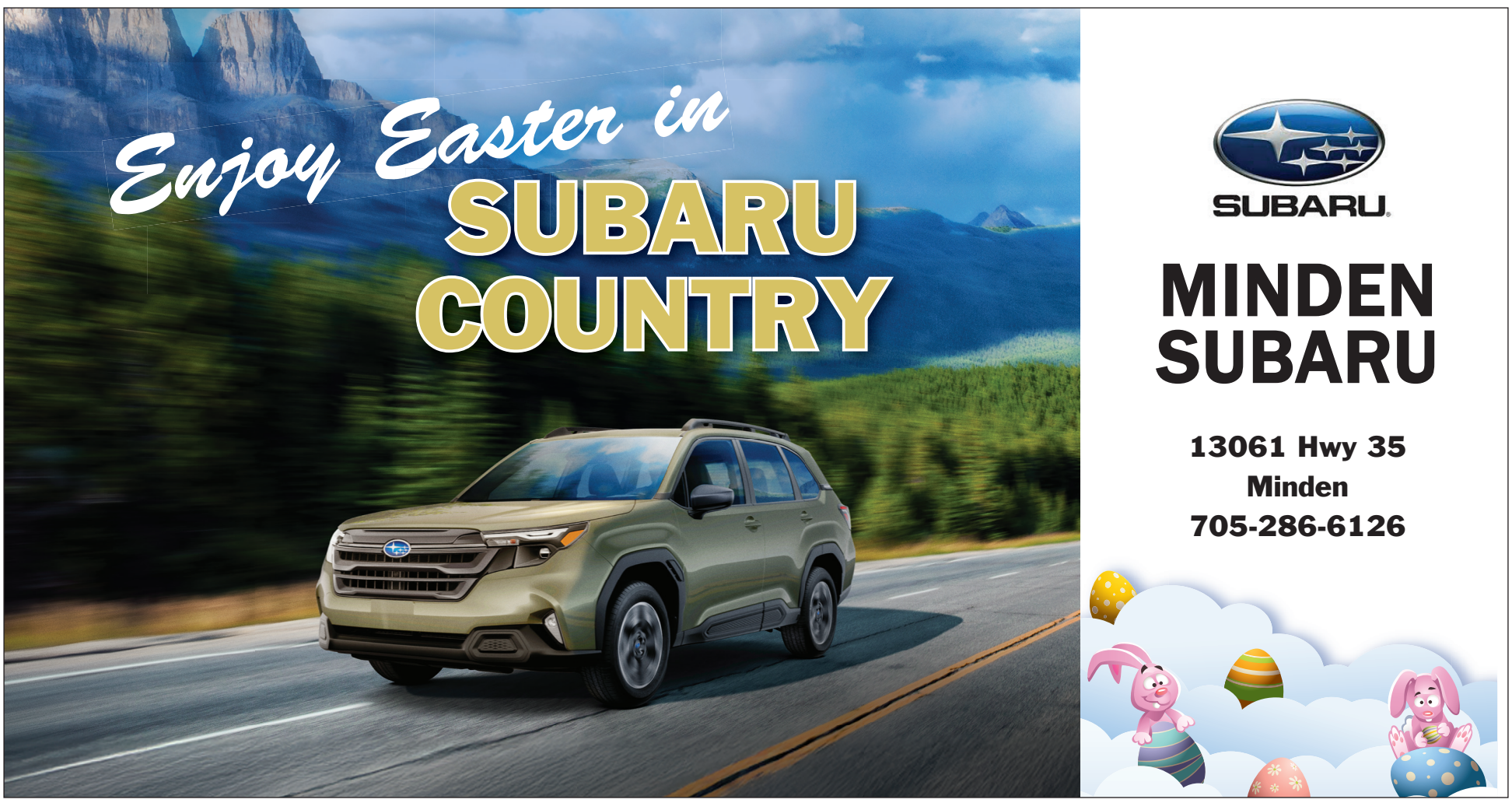
This month has been packed full of fun sports, clubs, and activities, and we are looking forward to continuing this fun come April.

Sommaire Française:

Avec beaucoup de jours de neige et la pause de mars, le mois était tellement amusant. Les étudiants de Hal High ont démontré leur athlétisme avec des OFSAA championnats, des COSSA qualificatifs, et deux nouveaux sports. Aussi il y a le club de drame qui fait des répétitions pour leur divertissement *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. L'école a aussi participé dans le "Great Grain Challenge" et les étudiants ont fait beaucoup de donations pour les banque alimentaires à Minden et Haliburton. C'était un mois amusant et nous avons hâte pour la prochaine!

Bad(minton) to the bone

Badminton is underway for the students at Haliburton Highlands Secondary School. Other sports for the season include soccer and track and field. /TIM YANO staff photographer



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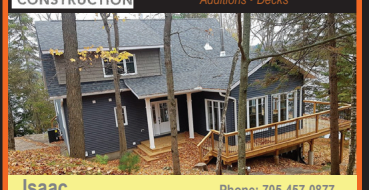

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Huskies Playoffs

Until next time...

In a tough series against the Trenton Golden Hawks, the Huskies will be hanging up their skates for the season. On Tuesday, the teams faced off in Haliburton at the A.J. LaRue Arena, where the Huskies fell 2-1. On Saturday, April 12, in what ended up being the final game of the season, the Huskies played hard, but ended up losing 4-2. We congratulate the team on a hard-fought season, and look forward to continuing coverage when games resume. /TIM YANO staff photographer

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Board of Directors Opportunity

Point in Time Centre for Children, Youth and Parents, provides a broad range of services including mental health, child development, youth justice and the Haliburton County Youth Wellness Hub.

We are seeking members who are knowledgeable of the health sector, mental health, fundraising, and who have legal and facilities expertise.

Point in Time seeks, whenever possible, Board members who are representative of the following diversity standards: race, ancestry, place of origin, colour, ethnic origin, citizenship, creed, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, record of offences, marital status, family status, disability, or consumer of services.

For more information, please visit our web site: https://www.pointintime.ca/opportunities/volunteers/

400 EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Hiring: regular massage support, experience good but not necessary, will train you. Btwn Minden/Carnarvon. $30-35+/hr negotiable 1-2x week. **theheartwoodfarm@gmail.com**

Hyland Ice Supply is now accepting applications for the 2025 summer season for Drivers Helpers, Production Staff and Drivers (D, DZ, G). Interviews will be held early April. Please contact us via e-mail or telephone **info@hylandice.com 705-448-2973** Attention Carol

Township of Algonquin Highlands

Township of Algonquin Highlands

The Township of Algonquin Highlands is seeking applications from qualified individuals for the following position.

Public Works Supervisor

Visit our website at:
www.algonquinhighlands.ca for the complete job description.
Qualified candidates are invited to submit a cover letter and resume by 3:00 pm on April 24, 2025 to:

Dawn Mugford-Guay
Human Resources Coordinator
Township of Algonquin Highlands
1123 North Shore Road
Algonquin Highlands, ON K0M 1S0
Email:
dmugfordguay@algonquinhighlands.ca

400 EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Private campground in the Minden/Haliburton area requires a reliable **SUMMER MAINTENANCE** PERSON from May 10 to October 13, 2025. $20/hour. Duties Include: general maintenance; cleaning park grounds, rec hall, washrooms; operating small grass cutting equipment; ability to lift over 40 lbs; assisting with various small projects as assigned. Approximately 5 hours a day. Morning start time. Willing to work weekends. Must possess a valid "G" driver's license. A good driving record is required. Please submit your resume to **neca.bod@gmail.com**

580 ANNOUNCEMENTS

Linda Coneybeare & Rob Freeman are happy to announce their marriage, which took place in the midst of an Ottawa blizzard
Feb 16, 2025

To quote Van Morrison
"The best is yet to come"

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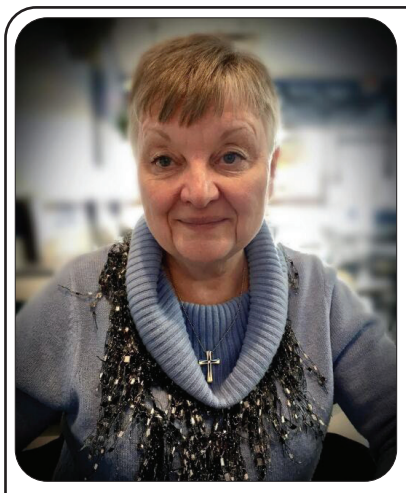
650 OBITUARIES



Cheryl Cohoon
(Resident of Haliburton)

We are deeply saddened by the passing of our beloved Cheryl Anne Cohoon on Wednesday, April 2, 2025.

The beloved daughter of Anne and Ken Cohoon. Cheryl is now at peace, reunited with her father, who passed away before her. She was a dedicated mother to Christopher and a beloved sister to Jesse and Nancy. Cheryl also touched the lives of her nieces and nephews, including Eric (Tracey), Jodi, Andrea (Natasha), and her great-niece and nephew, Leia and Cade. She was a cherished godmother to Zachary and Renn.

Cheryl's exceptional singing talents enriched St. George's Anglican Church. Her vibrant presence was felt in the community's music, dance, theatre, and art circles, and she was a committed volunteer at Highland Wood. Her bright spirit will be greatly missed by all who knew her.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the many friends and professionals who offered compassion and support to Cheryl throughout her life, with special thanks to her angels—Judith, Brenda, Zack, Renn, and Uta.

Private Funeral Arrangements

Funeral arrangements are private. A Celebration of Cheryl's life will take place at a later date. As an expression of sympathy, donations in Cheryl's memory can be made to the Highland Woods Residents' Council, The Anglican Parish of Haliburton, or to a charity of your choice. Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the **HALIBURTON COMMUNITY FUNERAL HOME** 13523 Hwy #118 Haliburton, ON K0M 1S0 (705) 457-9209.

Community Funeral Home
www.communityfuneralhomes.com

Vaughan, Florence Ruth (Traviss)

Peacefully, at Haliburton Highlands Health Services, Haliburton, on Friday, April 04, 2025.

Ruth Vaughan, age 76 of Wilberforce, was the beloved wife of Thomas Vaughan. Loving mother of George Vaughan of Queensville, Tammy Vaughan of Wilberforce, Tanya Vaughan (Jon) of Sutton, and Cindy Vaughan (Jeff) of Halifax. Loved grandmother of Michael, Stephen (Colbeigh), Rhys, and Rylee. Great-grandmother of Noah. Ruth will be greatly missed by her large family and many friends. Ruth was a lifetime member of the Wilberforce Legion Ladies Auxiliary. Cremation has taken place. A Celebration of Ruth's Life took place at the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 624 (1007 Burleigh Road, Wilberforce) on Sunday, April 13, 2025, at 2:00 p.m. Interment Essonville Pioneer Cemetery, Essonville. As expressions of sympathy, donations to The Essonville Historic Church would be appreciated by the family. Arrangements entrusted to M.G. Daly Funeral Home, Maynooth. (613) 338-3259 (Condolence messages may be e-mailed to dalyfuneralhome@bellnet.ca or visit www.mgdalyfuneralhome.com).

M.G. DALY Funeral Home Ltd.
200 Old Hastings Rd. ● PO Box 99 ● Maynooth, ON ● K0L 2S0

Judith "Judy" Hillier (nee Ireland)
(Resident of Little Glamor Lake
(Little Bear Lake) Haliburton, Ontario)

Judy received her wings March 15, 2025. In her 79th year after suffering a massive heart attack following knee replacement surgery the preceding day.

Born in Toronto, August 20, 1946, Judy was the second born and cherished daughter of Herb & Ruth Ireland. Judy was predeceased by our precious daughter Tricia Anne Hillier-McGarrigle (11-26-1970 to 03-24-2005), her parents Herb and Ruth Ireland and her younger sister, Susan (2019).

Judy is survived by her loving and grateful husband Roger of 56 years, her adored grandson's Ryan and Matthew McGarrigle, her older sister Carolyn Whittle (George) and Younger sister Jane Lawrence (Brian). She will be lovingly remembered by many nieces, nephews, great nieces and nephews, cousins, neighbours and friends.

Judy was a Secretary for the N.M. Davis Corp (Chainway Stores Div.) She was a stay at home mom until the mid 80's when she learned to drive and then returned to the workforce and became Manager of Cedar Heights Post Office until we retired in 1996. We worked together, shoulder to shoulder, side by side, to build our retirement house on LGL, but it was Judy and Judy alone that made it a loving home.

She loved music and loved to dance to Rock and Roll and slow love song ballads, until the arthritis in her knees made it impossible to do so. We always ended the dance evening with " I Can't Help Falling in Love With You " by Elvis or the "Last Waltz" by Engelbert. She often said, that it was music and her treadmill that got her through after our daughters death. When she was cooking and baking the stereo was always blasting 50's music. Her roast beef dinners, pies, cookies and cakes were to be admired and envied, and no one ever left her table hungry. She cherished every moment she spent cooking with Her Grandsons. She was an avid reader, gardener, and oh how she loved to go on shopping sprees with Linda Dawkins and Kim Armstrong. Judy truly believed that, " It is more blessed to give than to receive" as her generosity new no bounds. She had an unwavering and undying love of her family, her kindness towards others, and her love for all creatures both great and small. She had the uncanny ability to forgive and accept the wrongdoings of others while still moving forward. She was a very private person, but if she opened her heart and accepted you as a friend, you could rest assured that you were her friend for life. Her positive attitude towards life motivated those closest to her even when she was in severe pain with the arthritis that plagued her knees. She so looked forward to the day she would be pain free so she could return to doing the things that she loved.

We met at a New Years Eve Party in 1967, were engaged May 67 and married on Thanksgiving Weekend October 11, 1969. She has been my Wife, the love of my life, my confidant, my rock and my best friend ever since. My life will never be the same without her. I'll end with the expression I would say to her at night. Good night Sweetie, I love you.

Private Funeral Arrangements

As per Judy's wishes, cremation has taken place and she will be interred in a niche next to her precious daughter Tricia at Resthaven Memorial Gardens,. A celebration of Judy's life will be held at a later date. As an expression of sympathy, donations in Judy's memory can be made to the Ontario Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, or to any other charitable organization dealing with abused women. Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the **HALIBURTON COMMUNITY FUNERAL HOME** 13523 Hwy #118 Haliburton, ON (705) 457-9209.

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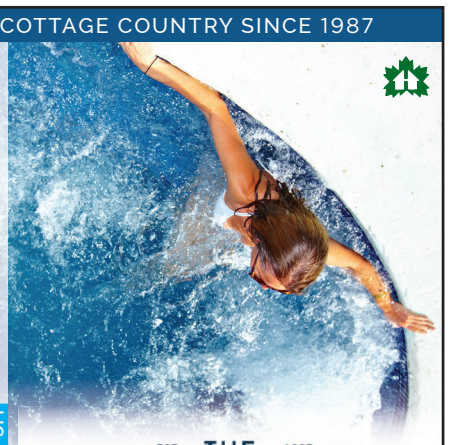

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INSIDE THIS WEEK:

KIDS' GAMES
If popular after-school program is to continue in Highlands East, funding is needed

HAPPY RETIREMENT, GERALD
Algonquin Highlands CAO was given a warm and loving send off on Saturday night

REMEMBERING V-E DAY
It was a time of celebration and sadness in Haliburton and around the world

THE ECHO
HALIBURTON COUNTY

TUESDAY, MAY 3, 2005 VOL. 122 NO. 19 $1 INCL. GST

Taking a gamble

County uses next year's funding to keep tax rate hike to eight per cent

MARTHA PERKINS
Editor

County council is gambling on being able to cut costs next year as a way of reducing the impact of increased property taxes this year.

On Wednesday, council struggled with the numbers right up until the last minute. Just that day they had learned *that the $674,000 cheque they had* received from the provincial government was really just a cash advance for next year. Next year, their grant is to be reduced by $674,000 plus an additional $250,000. By 2008, treasurer Laura Janke informed them, the grant to the county is scheduled to be $1 million less than it's receiving now.

If the county were to spend the $674,000 this year, that would mean an even bigger hit next year. But if the $674,000 is taken out of the budget and saved to soften next year's blow, the increase would be 15 per cent. That figure was too high for councillors to swallow.

Yet at the back of their minds was another nagging thought. Property owners are enjoying a one-year holiday from assessment increases this year, as dictated by the province. Next year, however, properties will once again be assessed on their current market value. Since prices on waterfront properties are going up at the fastest rate, seasonal residents especially are very vulnerable to large tax hikes next year.

Should they risk having to increase taxes next year when assessments will already be higher?

Dysart et al Reeve Murray Fearrey felt the tax rate increase should be kept to seven per cent. He hopes that next year the county will get the revenue promised by the Liberals from the gas tax incentive. As well, no major road

See **County** *page 13*

DARREN LUM/Echo

The fence is the first part of Haliburton Rotary Club's initiative to reclaim Rotary Beach and Head Lake Park from the Canadian goose which have been polluting the beach with their guano.

Rotarians vow to take back the beach

DARREN LUM
Staff Reporter

The birds will have to go elsewhere, taking their antibiotic-resistant pathogens with them.

A recent study, expected to be published in June in the *Journal of Emerging Infectious Diseases*, has revealed that Canada goose guano is more than unsightly, it is also a real threat to human health since it can carry antibiotic-resistant pathogens.

Known to already cause "swimmers' itch", the guano is the main reason why Rotary Beach has been forced to close on the hottest summer days in the past few years. The removal of the geese has therefore received greater attention from the Haliburton Rotary Club this year.

After years of Canada geese dominance the Club is taking back Rotary Beach and the surrounding area with a few new ideas.

On Sunday morning more than 15 members and concerned citizens, installed a one-foot high fence around the shoreline of the park to prevent Canada geese from getting into the park.

Later this week the club plans to install the "Goose Buster", an electronic device that emits a sound that mimics a goose distress call. Set on timer, the device is expected to discourage the geese from landing. With an expected coverage of six to eight acres this device will cover most of the park. The club does not know if the sound is only audible to geese or if it will disturb neighbours.

"Those are the unknowns. We're concerned for the neighbours," Foster Loucks said. "What can we do? Let the geese take over?"

Rotary member John Beachli is resolute in his goal to reclaim the beach and the surrounding park area.

"It's time to get it back...to take it back from the birds," he said.

The materials for the fencing were donated by Emmerson Lumber and Haliburton Home Hardware. An anony-

See **Don't feed** *page 13*

New grocery store opens Thursday

LANCE CROSSLEY
Staff Reporter

With the new Independent grocery store finally set to launch this Thursday, franchise owner Steven Todd is hoping to make the inaugural celebration an extended affair. On opening day, along with coffee and cake, he will be giving away a big-screen TV. The weekend will feature a number of draws where customers may walk away with a new patio set or barbecue.

Steven Todd has two special openings planned.

The gas station opened last week with 78-cents-a-litre gas drawing line ups of cars. (The deal lasted for only two days.)

Despite the fanfare, this weekend is being labelled as the store's "soft"

See **New store** *page 5*

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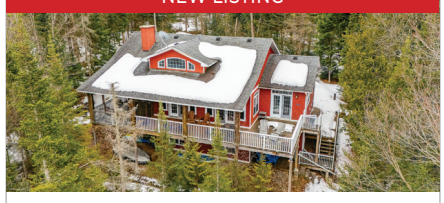

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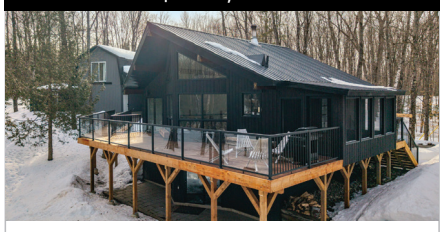

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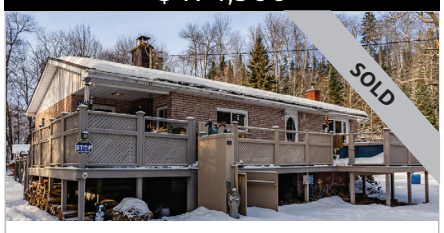

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3 X BED | 2 X BATH | MLS# X12009789

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